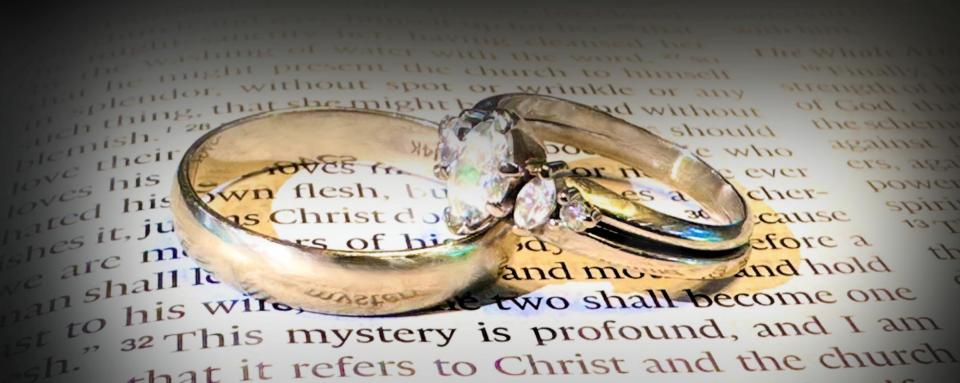
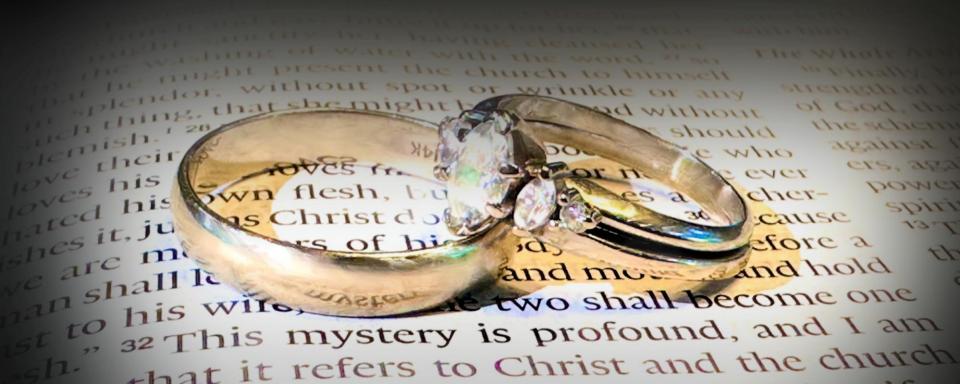
he Secret of Marriage wn flesh, bi cherned his Cause hes it, ju efore a e are mi and hold n shall k and mo two shall become one to his wire, " 32 This mystery is profound, and I am that it refers to Christ and the church The secret of marriage is that it represents the union between Christ and the Church.



The Church is not the building but all the people who will be united to Christ by faith.



Ephesians 5:25-33

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.



1. Christ sacrificially loved His bride.

Ephesians 5:25

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

- The cross was Christ's voluntary, sacrificial, and costly love put into action.
- The cross was the "bride price" that Christ was willing to pay.



2. Christ sanctifies His bride.

Ephesians 5:26-27

²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

- Christ brings out the best in His bride.
- Revelation 19:6-9



3. Christ is united to His bride.

Ephesians 5:28

²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

- Union with Christ
- What belongs to one belongs to the other.
- Romans 6:3-8
- The believer's union with Christ is legal, and intimate, and spiritual.



4. Christ cares for His bride.

Ephesians 5:29-30

²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body.

- Nourishes: feeds & provides for
- Cherishes: cares for, protects, & treasures



5. Christ leads His bride.

Ephesians 5:23-24

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

- Loving headship
- Not harsh
- Not passive



6. Christ is faithful to His bride.

Romans 8:38-39

³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Christ will never waver in His covenant faithfulness to His bride.
- Romans 8:38-39

he Secret of Marriage wn flesh, bi cherned his Cause hes it, ju efore a e are mi and hold n shall k and mo two shall become one to his wire, " 32 This mystery is profound, and I am that it refers to Christ and the church